



# CITY OF SANTEE

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December 10, 2009

Sustainable Communities  
Planning Grant and Incentives Program  
c/o Department of Conservation  
Office of Sustainability  
801 K Street, MS 24-01  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: City of Santee Comments on the Draft Grant Guidelines & Application  
for Proposition 84 Funds in Support of the Sustainable Communities  
Program**

The City of Santee is pleased to submit comments on the draft Guidelines and Application forms prepared for the Sustainable Communities Program. Having successfully received state funds in the past, City staff has gained experience in the overall process. This letter notes where Guideline clarification would be helpful.

Given that proposals may be focused on "planning" documents or "implementation" tools, consider establishing an either/or scenario for the two eligibility criteria stated in the Guidelines if possible under SB 732. This may encourage more application submittals since the ability to document in any practical way the greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions associated with, say, the construction of a Class 1 bike path, or with the adoption of a green building ordinance may need to rely on pre-determined assumptions.

If GHG reduction assumptions are acceptable, it would be helpful to identify the appropriate protocol in the Guidelines. Important too would be more information on acceptable performance metrics and the associated mandatory reporting period, as relevant.

It would be helpful to know if Natural Communities Conservation Plans and Habitat Conservation Plans are eligible or ineligible projects, and so noted on the appropriate lists provided in Sections VII and VIII. Specific to eligible "existing" adopted sustainability policies or programs consistent with the state planning

priorities and plans", examples of proposals that could be funded would be helpful. Given the scope of SB 732, could proposals include conversion of a municipal fleet to electric power and construction of a charging station to serve the fleet, or a shuttle service to senior mobile home parks, or replacement of turf in landscaped rights-of-way with drought-tolerant plants and improved irrigation technologies?

The Glossary does not include a definition for infill and compact development, as stated.

The Glossary includes a definition of a Disadvantaged Community. Could such a "community" be defined within a Census Tract or Block? It is important to expand the guidelines on this issue because more points are awarded to proposals that serve Disadvantaged Communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Program Guidelines and Application. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [mkush@ci.santee.ca.us](mailto:mkush@ci.santee.ca.us)

Respectfully



Melanie Kush  
City Planner  
City of Santee

c. Kathy Valverde, Assistant to the City Manager